

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
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## ***Press Release***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE 1999 *ART OF HEALING CHILDREN* CALENDAR IS NOW ON SALE**

**Sacramento**—The 1999 “*Art of Healing Children*” Calendar produced by the Metropolitan State Hospital Child and Adolescent Treatment Center is now available, announced Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Director of the Department of Mental Health.

“The featured art includes 53 photographic reproductions of creative, inspirational works that are both visual and literary expressions, including; paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures and poems. All this art was created by children with severe emotional disturbances in their art classes in the hospital,” said Mayberg.

“The *Art of Healing Children* Calendar has always been a source of continual pride for the Department. We are excited that Metropolitan State Hospital has this opportunity to showcase the talent of the children. The children have found a way to express thoughts and feelings when mere words may not suffice. Through Art Therapy and Arts in Mental Health, the lives of these children, and ours, have been enriched,” Mayberg said.

The *Art of Healing Children* engagement calendar was first produced nine years ago by staff at the Napa State Hospital Center for Youth. In December 1997, the children’s program was transferred to Metropolitan State Hospital along with the Calendar project. This is the first children’s calendar produced by the Arts Program at Metropolitan State Hospital.

In the past eight years, the calendar has received numerous awards including the 1997 World Calendar Gold Medal for “Best Desk Theme” calendar and the Gold Medal for the “Best Non-Profit Engagement Calendar” in the 1996 National Calendar Awards.

The Metropolitan State Hospital Child and Adolescent Treatment Center serves children and adolescents, ages 7-17 who are primarily from the Southern California counties. The Center is part of a system-wide continuum of care, whose goal is to provide short-term intensive psychiatric treatment, and return children to their home or community placement as soon as clinically indicated. The hospital’s Arts in Mental Health Program provides visual, literary, performing and fine arts experiences to help patients enhance their self-expression, build self-esteem, and increase their interpersonal skills. Classes include poetry, drama, photography, Japanese Taiko Drumming, and visual arts, a children’s art calendar project and community art exhibits. Artists in residence teach children artistic skills.

The Calendar artwork will be exhibited at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center located at 1201 W. Malvern Avenue in Fullerton, California from September 3 to 7, 1998. A reception which is open to the public, will be held from 6-9:00 p.m. on September 3.

The 1999 *Art of Healing Children* Calendar is available for purchase in well-known retail bookstores for \$14.95. The calendar can also be purchased directly from the Department of Mental Health and Metropolitan State Hospital. Proceeds from the sales will go to support arts programs at Metropolitan State Hospital. For additional information about the calendar, contact Tommie Erickson at Metropolitan State Hospital at (562) 651-4272 or Ilene Goodwoman, AIMH Project Director, State Department of Mental Health (916) 654-2525.

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